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On some new Species of Biliary and Intestinal Concretions.

By THOMAS TAYLOR, Esq.

To Richard Taylor, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

SEVERAL statements having appeared in the continental journals with regard to the composition of some new species of biliary and intestinal concretions, I have received permission from the Museum Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons to state, that in the second and third parts of the Catalogue of the Calculi and other Concretions, which will shortly be published, the following facts will be shown:—

1. That the lithofellinic acid calculus, described by Professors Goebel and Wöhler, *Ann. der Pharm.* for 1841, b. xxxix., and *Götting. Gelehr. Anz.* for the same year, is not a new species of calculus, but is identical in composition with the calculus described and figured by Fourcroy and Vauquelin in the first volume of the *Ann. du Museum National* as “*résine animale bezoardique*.” Also that it is not a biliary calculus, or in any way connected with the biliary secretion, as its name would imply, but that it is derived from the resinous juices contained in the plants, &c. on which the species of wild goat, termed by the Persians *Pasen*, browses. This view of the origin of these bodies is advocated by Kämpfer in his *Amoenitates Exoticæ*, and its correctness will be proved on chemical and other grounds.

2. That several intestinal concretions have been discovered consisting of the insoluble acid obtained by Braconnot from the infusion of gall-nuts, and termed by him ellagic acid. The constituent of these concretions has been described by John, *Chem. Schr.* 3. 38, under the name of *Bezoarstoff*. It forms also the ligniform matter of Berthollet, “*Holzartige Materie*,” and I have also no doubt that it is the peculiar acid from the oriental bezoar, described by M. Lippowitz, in Simons’s *Beiträge zur phys. et pathol. Chemie*, b. i. p. 463, and termed by him bezoaric acid.

*Oxalate of Lime*.—In the first part of the Catalogue, published in 1842, p. 75, I alluded to the fact of large concretions of this salt being occasionally found in the intestines of herbivorous animals; these have since been described as a new species by M. Guibourt, in the *Journ. de Pharm. et de Chemie* for February 1843.

*Biliary Calculi*.—In addition to the stearate of lime calculus, already described in the *Phil. Mag.*\*, I have to announce the existence of another species, which resembles in most of its chemical habitudes the colouring matter of the bile (*Cholé-*

\* S. 3. vol xvii. p. 8.

*pyrrhine*, Berz.), but which is not converted into *Gallengrün* by solution in potash and precipitation by muriatic acid.

*Urate of Potash*.—Two of these calculi, the discovery of which was alluded to in the preface to the first part of the Catalogue, have been submitted to a quantitative analysis. One contained above 10 and the other above 13 per cent. of potash in combination with uric acid.

*Intestinal Concretions consisting of Vegetable Hairs*.—Dr. Wollaston first showed that the greater number of the human intestinal concretions consisted of the small setæ attached to the seed of the oat. I have discovered in the Museum several concretions from the lower animals, consisting also of the vegetable hairs from the different parts of plants.

The nature of the so-called lithofellinic acid calculus, for which I shall propose the name of resino-bezoardic acid, and also of the oxalate of lime concretion, was described in a report read before the Committee in January 1841, but the statements of Professor Goebel, and other eminent foreign chemists, have compelled me carefully to re-examine these calculi.

I trust soon to have an opportunity of sending you in detail the results of my investigation of this subject, but until the Catalogue is published the Committee are desirous that only the above brief notice of a few of the leading facts should appear.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

THOMAS TAYLOR.

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